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INFORMATION ON USSR AGRICULTURE, 10 - 30 APRIL 1953

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

By 15 April, kolkhozes of the USSR had sown 3,300,000 hectares more than had been sown the same date in 1952. The sowing of spiked grain crops has already been completed in the Moldavian SSR, the Uzbek SSR, the Kabardin-skaya ASSR, and Odesskaya, Khersonskaya, Nikolayevskaya, and other oblasts of the Ukrainian republic. (1)

Many kolkhozes of the republic are adding lime to soils containing too much acidity. Such soils occupy a considerable area in the republic.(2)

Utilization of the Lithuanian Division of the Civil Air Fleet in 1951 resulted in the application of supplemental fertilizers to 10,300 hectares of winter grains and perennial grasses. In 1952, the area fertilized increased to 16,500 hectares, and in 1953, it will reach 25,000 hectares.(3)

Use of SKG-4 potato-planting machines in 1953 will result in a quadruple increase in check-row planting of potatoes in the republic.(4)

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Kolkhozes of Poleskaya Oblast are carrying on wide-scale sowing of spiked grain crops, flax, and root crops; they are also planting potatoes.

A great deal of attention is being paid to the cultivation of wheat; the area sown to wheat is being increased by 12 percent. Wheat is sown everywhere in the oblast on well-fertilized soil, with local seeds of the Lyutestsens-62 variety.(5)

Kolkhozes of Pinskiy Rayon have sown 1.5 times as much wheat in 1953 as in 1952. The sowing of wheat, rye, oats, and flax has been completed by many kolkhozes of David-Gorodokskiy, Ivatsevichskiy, Pruzhanskiy, and Turovskiy rayons. Potatoes and sugar beets are being planted, and grain crops are being sown.(6)

Kolkhozes of the republic have fulfilled the spring plan for applying supplemental fertilization to winter crops. At the same time as in 1952, almost 250,000 hectares more were fertilized in 1953.(7)

#### Ukrainian SSR

As of 13 April, 15 oblasts in the republic were sowing sugar beets. The sowing of sunflowers was completed in Khersonskaya, Izmail'skaya, and Zakarpatskaya oblasts. By 10 April, perennial and annual grasses had been sown on an area exceeding one million hectares, which is five times as much as had been sown by the same date in 1952.

Zakarpatskaya Oblast is becoming a new tea-growing region in the republic. The subtropical crop has become acclimatized to local conditions.(2)

By 24 April, with the help of the Ukrainian Civil Air Fleet, more than 250,000 hectares of grain and perennial grasses had been provided with supplemental fertilization in Nikolayevskaya, Khersonskaya, Zaporozhskaya, and other oblasts of the republic.

Aircraft will also be used in processing extensive areas against insects which attack sugar beets and in applying supplemental fertilization to 400,000 hectares sown to sugar beets.(8)

Sovkhozes of Khar'kovskaya Oblast are making progress in applying supplemental fertilizers to areas sown to winter crops. The area fertilized will be considerably greater than that fertilized in previous years, in addition to which, the rate of applying fertilizers has been stepped up by approximately 1.5 times for each hectare sown.

Extensive use is made of civil aviation in applying supplemental fertilizers to grains.(3)

#### Georgian SSR

Research carried out by the Agricultural Institute imeni L. P. Beriia indicated that pepper grown in the republic is highly tasteful and aromatic.

The pepper tree grows to a height of four meters and is capable of withstanding a 20-degree frost; it is propagated by grafting and by seeds and matures rapidly, producing a yield in the third year. Its leaves contain a great deal of vitamin C, and its highly-spiced flower yields essential oils.

Plantations for the production of tarragon (*Artemisia dracunculus*) on a commercial scale are being set up in several regions of the republic. The Volatile Oil Industry Trust of the Georgian SSR expects to establish large-scale plantations in Kvarel'skiy Rayon.(9)

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Armenian SSR

Wide-scale sowing of cotton is in progress in the republic, with more than half of the areas already sown. Good soil preparation and additional mechanical equipment reaching MTS have shortened the period of sowing.(10)

Kolkhozes of Azizbekovskiy Rayon had started planting tobacco by 16 April. In 1953, almost all tobacco kolkhozes in the republic had transplanted seedlings developed by the Kotaykskaya Zonal Station from seeds of "Samsun," "Trapezond," and "Ostrolist," local varieties producing 3-5 quintals more tobacco leaf per hectare than is obtainable from imported seeds.(6)

Azerbaijani SSR

Wide-scale sowing of cotton is in progress in kolkhoz and sovkhoz fields of the republic. Intense effort is being extended to complete sowing in 8-10 working days.

All conditions are favorable for successfully sowing and obtaining a high harvest. Areas sown to cotton were plowed in good time so that 80,000 metric tons of mineral fertilizers and over 1.5 million metric tons of local fertilizers had been applied. Presowing irrigation and harrowing of winter fallow were carried out to retain moisture on large tracts.(11)

RSFSR

In 1953, kolkhozes of Ryazanskaya Oblast will devote an additional 110,000 hectares to sugar beets, potatoes, buckwheat, and fodder crops. An area 3.5 times larger than in 1952 will be sown by the close-row and crisscross methods. Up to 40 percent of the area devoted to buckwheat will be sown by the wide-row method.

There are seven new MTS and meadow improvement stations in the oblast, and the volume of tractor work is being increased by more than 1,300,000 hectares.(12)

Use of SKG-4 potato-planting machines in kolkhozes of the USSR in 1953 will result in the check-row planting of more than 400,000 hectares of potatoes, 110,000 hectares of which will be planted in Moskovskaya Oblast.(4)

Warm weather prevailed throughout Tyumenskaya Oblast in the beginning of April, melting snow and enabling field work to be carried out. Harrowing of summer and winter fallow to retain moisture was begun without delay; the sowing of virgin soil was also in progress.

Many kolkhozes of the oblast, because of unusually favorable weather, were able for the first time to retain melted snow on a large-scale basis.

By 21 April, a number of kolkhozes had begun sowing early spring crops, which included sunflowers for silage, flax, mushrooms, fodder root crops, legumes, and perennial grasses. In many regions, supplemental fertilization is being applied to winter rye and perennial grasses.(10)

Spring field work has been started by kolkhozes and sovkhozes of Saratovskaya Oblast. Kolkhozes in the northern regions are engaged in snow retention operations and in applying supplemental fertilizers to winter crops. In the Volga Region east of the Volga River, harrowing of winter fallow has been started.(13)

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Each kolkhoz in the Kuban' has an average of 50 hectares devoted to vineyards and gardens, although many kolkhozes devote 300-500 hectares to gardening. The planting of fruit orchards is in full swing. The spring plan for setting out gardens was fulfilled by 20 April on an area of 2,800 hectares; the plan for vineyards was also fulfilled by the same date on an area of 1,200 hectares.(9)

Soybean experimentation has been carried out during the last 3 years on fields of the Omsk Agricultural Institute and on kolkhoz fields in Omskaya Oblast. Fifty varieties were tested, with yields reaching 30 quintals per hectare. Seeds are now being requested by many kolkhozes.(14)

In spring 1953, kolkhozes of Novosibirskaya Oblast are scheduled to sow 155,000 hectares more than was sown in 1952. The areas devoted to grain, fodder crops, and potatoes are being expanded. Both plowing and sowing are almost completely mechanized and MTS are scheduled to accomplish 30 percent more tractor work in 1953 than was done in 1952.(15)

The first spring rains have ended in the Chuvashskaya ASSR, and field work was started 2 weeks earlier than in spring 1952. Supplemental fertilization is being applied to winter crops.

By 16 April, kolkhozes of the Severo-Osetinskaya ASSR had completed cultivating the soil and had started to sow rice. Presowing irrigation had been carried out everywhere. There has been a steady growth in the cultivation of rice in the republic: twice the 1952 area is being devoted to it in spring 1953.(16)

Spring appeared early in Siberia, causing rapid melting of snow, the retention of which is occupying leading kolkhozes; they are also harrowing and applying supplemental fertilization. Rye withstood the winter very well.(5)

Kolkhozes of Cherkesskaya Avtonomnaya Oblast are engaged in large-scale sowing of sunflowers, root crops, and coriander, and are also planting potatoes and fruit orchards. The area devoted to coriander, root crops, and Indian mallow (*Abutilon Avicennae Gaertn.*) is being extended greatly; that devoted to rice is being quadrupled. All kolkhozes of the oblast use only the check-row method of sowing.(11)

In 1952, the sown area in Chitinskaya Oblast was enlarged by 22,000 hectares; the grain harvest was increased considerably.(3)

Spring field work is in progress in Tartarskaya ASSR, and supplemental fertilizers are being applied at a rapid rate. By 10 April, southern kolkhozes had fertilized winter crops and perennial grasses extending over an area of tens of thousands of hectares. Aircraft will be employed on a large scale to apply supplemental fertilizers to sovkhos fields.(11)

Supplemental fertilization of extensive areas was under way during the first 5 days of April in sovkhos and kolkhozes of Voronezhskaya Oblast.(17)

In 1952, kolkhozes of Chanayevskiy Rayon carried out meadow-improvement work on an area of 2,600 hectares.(18)

Spring work is about to begin in Yakutskaya ASSR. There has been a considerable increase in mechanical equipment received by MTS of the republic, including scores of diesel tractors, self-propelled combines, threshing machines, tractor plows, and many other agricultural machines. High-power diesel tractors will be in operation in almost all MTS of the republic. In 1952, a few diesel machines were in operation in only two MTS.(11)

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Many thousands of tractors and combines, over 6,000 five-bottom plows, and 8,000 seeders have been shipped to the Kuban' during the past 4 years. All the principal spring field operations in kolkhozes of Krasnodarskiy Kray will be completely mechanized in 1953. Production of wheat in 1952 showed an increase of 48 percent over 1940. Every fifth kolkhoz worker in the kray is a mechanization specialist.(15)

Kazakh SSR

Kolkhozes and sovkhozes of the republic have fulfilled the state plan for sowing cotton. In rayons of Kzyl-Ordinskaya Oblast, where cotton has recently been introduced, the area devoted to them will be greatly extended as compared with 1952.(19)

By 14 April, hundreds of kolkhozes in the southern regions of the republic had sown grain crops and perennial grasses and were sowing sugar beets, cotton, and oleaginous crops.

In Dzhambul'skaya Oblast, 50 percent of all rayons had completed sowing spring crops. Kolkhozes of the oblast, using the crisscross method, had sown almost six times as much grain crops as was sown in 1952. Large sugar-beet plantations used the check-row method of sowing for the first time.

Sovkhozes of Taldy-Kurganskaya Oblast had sown ten times as much grain crops as had been sown by the same date in 1952. Extensive areas of early summer fallow had been plowed in sovkhoz fields of Yuzhno-Kazakhstanskaya Oblast.(13)

Tadzhik SSR

Heavy rainfall beginning in the second half of March and cold weather spreading throughout the republic prevented the sowing of cotton and greatly inhibited the organization of presowing and sowing operations. Incessant rains forced most regions of the republic to begin sowing as late as 14 April.(13)

Kenaf, a bast crop new to the republic, has been introduced on jute-growing sovkhozes of the republic. About 600 hectares have been sown to Kenaf.(20)

Kirgiz SSR

The rapid growth of sown and natural meadows throughout extensive areas of Talassskaya Oblast gives indications of a high harvest, preparations for which are everywhere in progress.

Operations carried out in kolkhozes by MTS of the oblast will, differing from previous years, include not only mowing of grasses, but also raking and stacking hay.(17)

All kolkhozes of Frunzenskiy Rayon had completed sowing cotton 10 days earlier this year than in 1952. Cotton growers of Aravanskiy Rayon also completed sowing cotton ahead of schedule.(21)

SOURCES

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